

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. The organization of civilian defense in Czechoslovakia was under the control of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Prague. Volunteer fire departments throughout the country were charged with the actual training of personnel and the execution of civil defense measures. The Communist regime was carrying out a vigorous recruiting campaign for the volunteer fire departments, particularly outside the larger cities. [REDACTED] in order to fulfill their mission, the fire departments will have the assistance of all Communist Party organizations, social welfare agencies, health departments, and the SNB.
2. Early in 1952, civilian defense got off to a start with the designation of house wardens, block wardens, and persons trained in administering first aid. Until the [REDACTED] there was no program underway to repair old bomb shelters in dwellings. In February 1952, some of the large underground shelters in Prague were being renovated. Renovation of the shelter at Vinohrady Railway Station was completed about this time. [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] simply observed workmen. [REDACTED] who had been down in the shelter that there were no indications of any special type of defense against the effect of an atom bomb. In addition to this large shelter, there were several special shelters, such as the ones under the Ministries of National Security and National Defense which had extra thick walls and [REDACTED] could offer good protection against an atomic blast. During World War II, AA batteries were located atop Petrin Hill in Prague III-Mala Strana, somewhere in Prague-Brevnov, and on Pohorelec Square in Prague IV-Hradsany. [REDACTED] there were any AA installations at these locations [REDACTED]

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Water tanks, which were erected in various places throughout the city during World War II, had not been restored, and there was no evidence of ambulances or evacuation vehicles. The only warning devices in evidence were the old sirens which were installed during World War II and the public address system with loudspeakers installed on the streets.

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3. [REDACTED] of instruction in civilian defense, if indeed such instruction existed. No special training was being given to civil defense organizations. Everyone assumed that, in the event of war, the same measures would be in effect as during World War II.

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4. [REDACTED] there were no provisions for defense against biological warfare. There had been no general inoculations; if such a program were undertaken, [REDACTED] there would be enough vaccine available. Nor did [REDACTED] any indications of any type of defense against chemical warfare. Most of those gas masks left over from the days of the First Republic were unfit for use.

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5. The State Radiological Institute was conducting experiments with clothing and textiles for protection against gamma and x-ray radiation, but the results of such experiments had not been made public. [REDACTED] that such protective clothing was impregnated with rubber mixed with lead, [REDACTED]

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